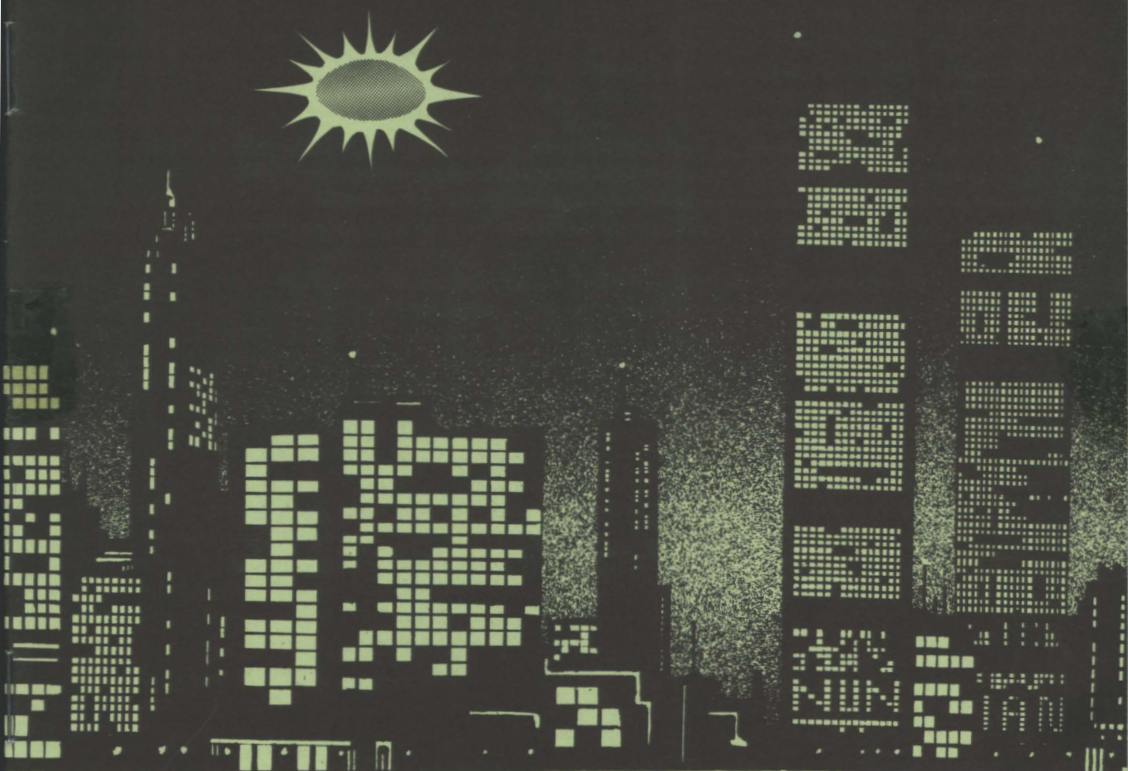


NORTHERN NEWS



Publication of NUFON...

UFO RESEARCH NORTH

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J.R. Comments ... There was a time when Britain produced the best UFO magazine in the world, FSR (Flying Saucer Review). Its last editor steered it to a rightful place at the forefront of ufology. For two years I have held back, but now I feel I must speak up about "The Fall of the House of Bowen"....

Without FSR I would not be writing these lines. In Summer 1968, as a sixteen year old, I had read a few sensationalised books about UFOs and was toying with thoughts of taking it up seriously, provided it did not clash with my science 'A' levels. I recall the day (just as one recalls the day that Presidents get shot) when my first trial issue of FSR arrived. It cost one-sixth of what it costs now and, although I did not know it at the time, it (and the 95 issues to follow) had a profound effect on my life. But for their same and sensible approach, and their masses of scientific data in support of UFOs, I would never have reached where I am today.

All that said I am not the best person to review the fate of this significant publication. Over the years I have always promoted it in my books. I have probably over-billed it in recent times. And yet the reputation Charles Bowen built, before his unfortunate illness forced him to retire two years ago, remains in force. In the USA last autumn I found that those who had read any of my articles had only done so in FSR. And it was still considered Britain's major source of UFO publishing. Since 1975 I have taken an active part in FSR affairs, serving in an administrative capacity, answering correspondence etc. I have attended board meetings (whilst not being on the board) and channelled a good deal of UK case material in their direction.

But all that has changed. Economic reorganisations cost me my 'job', on a basis I fully understood. And as FSR fought to survive (as it still does) the drastic measures became even more visible; thin paper, less pages, huge price increases, dismal art work, and so on. However, of the greatest relevance to its continuing decline, has been the seising of editorship by Gordon Creighton.

It is not surprising that Gordon should take over. FSR has always been run by he and Charles. The other names on the masthead are meaningless, in that the other board members (with exceptions of a very rare kind) contribute almost nil to the running of the journal. Indeed there are people not on the masthead who do far more and always have (eg answering the phone, acting as minutes secretary etc). The FSR Board has always been an 'old boys club' with attitudes so ridiculously antiquated that they really belong in the last century! Despite numerous attempts over the years (by myself and Janet & Colin Bord - the only people from Britain directly associated to FSR who are in touch with the modern UFO world) the board has continually refused to broaden its base.

This is one problem. The FSR editorship has slipped way out of line with the realities of the subject. In this way it has lost access to contributions it once might have attracted as a matter of course. Another significant factor is the rather strange opinions of its new editor. I will skip over his belief that books about UFOs (especially FSR books) are being deliberately removed from libraries as part of an MOD plot. Or his weird speculations about the demonic nature of UFO entities. We all have our ideas. But as editor of such an influential magazine these need to be held in check, otherwise all credibility is lost.

FSR reached that position sometime last year, and its new issue (Vol 29 No 3) does nothing to redress the balance. This time Gordon is claiming that UFO research is unfunded because the population is influenced, some of it being demonic in origin! Beyond that he refuses to say, adding that to do so would be 'dangerous'.

Cont...

It is sad to have to reflect that the once proud FSR has now become 'dangerous', because it is after all representing British ufology. And can you be satisfied with how it is doing that? I have to strongly advise that I am far from satisfied.

Whilst saying this I accept that it may be argued I have sour grapes. I was cut from the masthead last year without explanation. I have found myself insulted in print by the editor, over the Wiltshire circles. My phone conversations have been unintelligible with him, and all my letters have failed to produce answers. I also used to get extra copies of FSR, which I distributed to the many journalists I meet in my work. This has often provided articles and promotions for the magazine. Now these have stopped coming (again without explanation). Believe it or not, my own FSR issue still goes to my old address (from where I left in 1982) despite several letters pointing out the error! If FSR treats other subscribers this way it is small wonder it is losing money.

But these personal issues are irrelevant to my attitudes about FSR. It means a lot to me, and as I have shown it still engenders a great reputation abroad. Its issues also reach highly influential places; such as the House of Commons, the Chinese Science Library, peers of the realm, and the Queen's husband (to name but a few!) I can no longer justify giving FSR good promotion in my books. And I am terribly distressed that such sources as named above receive what they are receiving in the guise of British ufology. We are doing ourselves a great disservice by allowing it to happen unopposed.

For this reason I have chosen to speak up and voice a little of my disquiet. I guess there are still many silent, but saddened, ufologists out there. I believe now is the time to act. The "Friends of FSR" must combine at this critical moment for the good of what can still be a great magazine and, more importantly, for the good of our subject's reputation.

NEWS ROUND-UP

:: Another new group to announce is BCUFOS (Burnley Centre for UFO Studies and UFO cooperation) (c/o Stephen Brown 41 Duke St Harle Syke Burnley BB10 2JA) Stephen has already held a meeting, at which Arthur Tomlinson of DIGAP gave a lecture, and over 100 people turned up! Perhaps interest is climbing again.

:: Old stalwart ufologist Margaret Fry has moved north and asks for any Welsh readers to get in touch. Her address is now:- Fry's Croft Parc Aelas Llanwrst Road Llangernyw Gwynedd North Wales.

:: An interesting item from AFU, the Swedish group, is a copy of UFOCODE - which is intended to be a coding system for reports, magazines and books. The logical letter system (similar to the Devey books system) will provide a checklist of the content of any publication. It might be difficult to apply, but for the new plethora of reference libraries it is a useful tool. An international standard would be invaluable. Copies from:- PO 11027 S-600 11 Norrköping Sweden (English)

:: Just out - the 1984 AQUARIUS GUIDE...stiff cover, neatly produced, and very comprehensive list of paranormal and UFO groups in the world. Up to date too, which helps a good deal. Listed by sections and includes UFO magazines too. Good value at £1, post free, from UFON 39 Birkbeck Rd London NW7 4BP

:: I got a most interesting criticism of UFO REALITY from a man who admits he saw UFOs back in 1938 whilst mentally ill. He reckons I, and most ("or all...") UFO sightings, are manipulations of the CND - trying to push nuclear disarmament, with promotion via aliens who do not exist? Translations please.....



FOR YOUR PERUSAL: -
Major articles in print elsewhere

Magazine news dominates this issue. Congratulations are due to FORTEAN TIMES, which with issue 41 celebrates 10 years in print. Well done! We know how it feels! A special 76pp issue, of book length, contains many super articles including the first major new writing by John Keel for some years and a British-centred article by Michael Persinger regarding UK earthquakes and UFOs. You cannot afford to miss this issue...£1.25 (£5.4 issues) 96 Mansfield Rd LONDON NW3 2HX.

At least some magazines get better and better, FT is one!

A change in direction for COMMON GROUND too. Separating from ASSAP and in future concentrating on single themes. Issue 9 has a big article on the folklore aspects of crashed saucer stories and No 10 promises a UFO theme, on Why 1947 (for the arrival of UFOs)? Leading writers are to be invited to contribute, apparently. £1.25 per issue or £3.60 for 3, from: 56 Ring Rd Knighton Leicester LE 2 3 RR

And UFO Research Review, the highly respected NUFOS publication, has folded - to be replaced by ANOMALOUS PHENOMENON REVIEW...which will concentrate on serious investigation of all kinds of paranormal phenomena, including UFOs. Bob Morrell still edits. If you think this is a misprint, read again. It is not! This is a very welcome breath of fresh air from Nottingham. If NUFOS do for other anomalies what their publications have for UFOs in the past we have much to look forward to. In Issue 1 is an 1869 report on a "fiery goose" in the sky, a major Russian article on ball lightning, a US geologist on earthquake lights, several UFO sightings, and some funny cartoons to boot! It is a delight to be able to welcome back NUFOS to the fore of UK publishing and with such a bright new promise too. Keep it up! The subscription is £2.75 from 443 Meadow Lane Nottingham NG2 3GB

FATE Mar 1984 (80p from shops, SUS 16 from 500 Hyacinth Pl Highland Pk IL 60035) This issue has the second part (1st in Feb issue) of Bruce Maccabee thesis on why UFOs exist. New information and analysis of the Iran UFO missile/interceptor case.

INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER Dec 1983 (£ US 20 CUFOS PO 1621 Lima Ohio 45802) Yet another tenth anniversary (for the Center for UFO Studies). Mark Rodeghier very fairly and critically analyses successes and failures. Fascinating Polish CR3 and a detailed look at the Hessdalen, Sweden, UFO jamboree. If you don't know what that is - then you ought to find out!

APRO BULLETIN Jan/Feb 1984 (£ US 18 3910 E Kleindale Rd Tucson Az 85712) Can go rather better - a 32 yr anniversary for the oldest surviving UFO group in the world. The Lorenson's editing always makes the bulletin worth reading. A new (Aug 83) time-lapse case is of interest in these latest copies.

UFO RESEARCH AUSTRALIA Vol 4 No 2 (£ Aus 18 PO 229 Prospect N. Australia 5082) If you want to keep up with happenings down under this is indispensable. Keith Basterfield summarises the best Australia and New Zealand CR3 cases and Bill Chalker gives a state-of-play review of his retrieval of Australian government documents, to which he was given access in 1982, as they got "Freedom of Information"

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT:

The Evidence for Alien Abductions (John Rimmer)
The Evidence for Bigfoot (Janet & Colin Bord)



Each £2.50, and published 1984 by The Aquarian Press. Approx 160pp, illus.

Two more in the expanding ASSAP "Evidence for..." series, edited by Hilary Evans.

Janet & Colin's book shows all the hallmarks of what one might expect from our most experienced, and two of our best, paranormal writers. It does just what is asked of it, summarising the evidence in a succinct but enjoyable fashion. The unfamiliar reader is left with few questions, although he might wonder if the chapter linking the 'animal' with UFOs is either necessary or laboured. I remain unsure about that. It is a pity too that Britain does not figure anywhere in the text. I realise this would be difficult, but a brief discussion of the Scottish 'wildman' might have helped sales and establish the phenomenon in the minds of what will undoubtedly be the main group of national readers.

Quibbles apart, this was in my view the most successful of the four books so far to appear. But, to be fair, the Bord's had the least controversial, and in many senses narrowest, anomaly to review the evidence for.

Turning now to John Rimmer's first UFO book. This actually does a fine job of gathering together the evidence for what is a remarkably complex subject. On the face of it one might think people either do or do not see aliens. If they do, fine, we know what they are. If they do not, well it is all just a hallucination.

John summarises cases, the historical perspective, folklore connections, sci-fi, hypnotic regression foibles and all that one would expect. For two-thirds of the book this is excellent stuff. But then he goes on to assess the meaning and I fear rather loses his way.

Firstly, he does this rather too early - spending too much space repeating pro and con arguments, when more hard data could have been assessed in the end. Also, whilst his arguments themselves are incisive and to the point, he uses them to bolster a personal view which detracts from the book. The last chapter should have been left out. In all the confusion and conflicts of the evidence it is much too soon even to broadly say where the answer lies, although we all have our ideas and I do not blame John for having his. But, without space to justify it, this was not the place to introduce a rather extreme psychological theory (about the conscious and unconscious parts of the brain warring each other for control of a 'spaceship' - ie earth!) John may be right, but I am afraid I would need to see a whole lot more evidence to persuade me. As it stands the concept makes the reader forget all the good that has gone before and wonder about the motives of the author - which is both irrelevant and unfortunate.

What is more, the evidence presented in the book seems to me to better argue against the psychological theory, than for it. But perhaps I am biased!

Sadly the book is replete with errors too, possibly because this series is being put together in too much of a hurry. I know some investigators who nearly had a fit when they saw that hypnosis was the 'first step' in the Alan Godfrey investigation. It was not. In fact it was the last - after many months of work. A meaningless FSR reference is given for the case (the issue in question coming out before the sighting happened!) And there were other errors too; eg witness names changing from page to page, and the French scientist in Close Encounters of the Third Kind having his name (Lacombe) decimated.

I point these mistakes out, not because they are all that important. Most are minor. Nor because they detract too much from a book that is one of the best so far on this thorny topic. But as John and his MAGONIA colleagues have just spent two issues of their magazine attacking me for an error of one year, in one date, in The Pennine UFO Mystery, I can at least point out that human error can lead to irksome troubles, as can publishers deadlines. Deliberate fabrication (of which I was charged by MAGONIA) is not usually tenable to even a slight degree.

Perhaps the lesson to us all is to be more careful.

However, buy both books. For the price you cannot beat their value anywhere.

FRENCH UFO FEDERATION, PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE, LYON May 1983

That French ufology is well advanced is amply demonstrated in this 90pp A4 document, featuring all the papers at the conference. If you can read French to O Level you will get by. Covering a wide field, from biochemical changes linked with CE cases; a study of the relation between the EM field in the atmosphere, the time of day, and UFO reports; the sociological presence of UFO motifs in the rural population of Algeria; ancient astronaut debunking and UFO cases per se, it demonstrates the amount of hard research going on elsewhere. Cost. 50 FF from :- Jean-Pierre TROADEC 45 rue du Bon Pasteur 69001 LYON.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US

March sees NUFON celebrate its tenth anniversary. And May sees the tenth anniversary of Northern UFO News. Whilst that seems like an awful long time to be around in UFO circles there should be no backslapping or self congratulations.

NUFON, and this publication, always has had a modest intention. It collates the work of independent local groups in the region and acts as a mouthpiece therefor. It also enables a big pool of data to be established (1742 cases at latest count) which are housed at the NUFOIS HQ in Nottingham, available for you to use. This provides continuity in the ephemeral world of ufology. It allows you to do research and look for patterns with a much better base than you could possibly hope for as an individual group. And yet you remain independent, with all your own rules, regulations and methods.

It surprises me when new societies spring up, as they still occasionally do, and pronounce that they intend to boost cooperation between groups. Improve data sharing. Combine talents. Which is exactly what we have done for a decade. They have just not got around to discovering that yet.

But the work is not done and the show must go on. So we will not pontificate on achievements or failures (and, yes, there have been both). Instead I will run through the years from NUFON's genesis, giving the report totals on file and citing the years most impressive case. If nothing else this will jog a few memories and in its own way show what NUFON has been all about.

1974 was not a full year so the figures are not representative. 1975, with its 161 cases, was the first when we were in full swing. The January flap of "mystery helicopter" close encounters kept us busy, and the May 18 Rainhill, Merseyside, landing brought what is still a unique case (landing with 'entity footprints'). But the July 22 Machynlleth, Wales, "jellyman" CE4 is the one that has best made its place as a UFO classic. Although I recall the Holmfirth, West Yorks, case from the following month - where the very close encounter to the terrified witness on a mist-bound moorland road did more to persuade me of UFO reality than most.

1976 and 173 cases. Our first abduction came in February from Leeds and it is little different from those we get now, allbeit more often. A classic landing with tiny entities in Durham brought the most frustrating cases of the year when its investigation proved almost impossible due to terrified witnesses and interference by CONTACT UK. And then, on September 26, there was an excellent landing on a field 200 yards outside my back door. And I slept right through it - so far as I know that is!!

This was quite a prelude to 1977 - our great wave year. 333 cases, including many close encounters. Two major car-stops (Nelson March 9, Barnards Castle June 6) a UFO sound tape recorded at Warton, Lancs in October and much more. When we sat down and analysed it all we could see the peak times of the wave - Feb 21-Mar 10 (38 reports), May 17-27 (28 reports). These were not obvious whilst they were taking

place, and their discovery (to be nicknamed "crazy days") helped lay another brick in the proof of the real UFO hypothesis.

Spielberg's movie in 1978 kept us in the media limelight, a factor in the 275 cases. But was it also a factor in the creation of 4 CE3 cases in the first two weeks - all before the movie was released? Three (Frodham, Rainford & Risley) were in a narrow area of Cheshire and surrounds. On September 1 we had another "crazy day" when three independent animal disturbance cases took place, including the Llanerchymedd case, destined to bring more controversy than any other landing.

Things returned to normal in 1979 (158 cases) - a year in which many good but non-extraordinary UFO cases occurred. Cases which one could use as a "typical UFO", and of high quality again and again. Only the Livingston "assault" by mini-UFO in November really hit the headlines.

We were not to know that this was already the beginning of the end, with case totals tumbling dramatically... 1980 (88), 1981 (71), 1982 (48), 1983 (20). Yet there was still the great mini-wave of late November 1980, with several important close encounters, eg the Godfrey abduction in Todmorden. We also had our first new radar/visual from Birmingham Airport... and the year ended with the Rendlesham Forest affair. Despite the fall off in numbers, unexplained cases have continued (at a decidedly higher level), which seems to be important. Fully 25% of the 1982 and 1983 cases remain without solution at this point, much higher than in the past.

And so NUFON enters 1984 not knowing what will happen. Are we about to climb towards a new great wave in 1987? You will find quite a few ufologists ready to argue that. Only time will tell, and all we need to do is be ready - for anything!

HERO UFOLOGY.... By Andrew J Cummings

The Unknown... And undefinable and vague landscape, where dreams congregate. A land outside our limited sphere of knowledge. A strange place indeed.

In essence it is intangible. But this does not stop people, entranced by these obscure regions of reality, from attempting to fit together pieces into an orderly pattern. Equipped with logic and reason they try endlessly to shed some light amidst the darkness which has for millennia permeated our society and its predecessors.

They have tried - and they have failed.

Each segment of the unknown has its own specialised "rent-a-crowd". A following of personalities from every walk of life who find something of value in their slice of cake. They tread the netherworld dividing the known from the unknown. And they know what it means to be captivated by magic and mystery.

Some are inquisitive, searching for hidden meaning which may have escaped earlier investigators or researchers. They want to find answers to explain away the illusions of the universe. But there are those who wish to use the unknown as a manipulative tool for their own reward. These are fakers, frauds and hoaxers.

Leaving these aside for a moment let us consider those brave men and women who are dedicated pioneers. Who sometimes unearth miracles which others like themselves may expand upon. I name these people the HEROES. And those who threaten them, either directly or indirectly, I call ROGUES.

A HERO will present a theory using the same methods as applied by scientists. And if the theory falls, it falls. It is a theory without subjective trimmings.

But the ROGUES often wear the clothes of a HERO. They differ from Heroes, even though they sometimes produce results of merit. It is how they achieve these results which counts. Some are scientific hobos who recite endless (if meaningful) sermons about "being objective in investigation and research", without practising what they preach.

We do not have a rogue ufologist, so we will invent one. "ROGUE ONE", we will call him. ROGUE ONE believes in UFOs and actively investigates sightings. He believes all UFOs to be extra-terrestrial, with ray guns and so forth. Their spaceships, he learnt from comic books, have "stardrive capability". Imagine what would be the reaction of ROGUE ONE to a case where the witness was subjected to a variety of phenomena which we could only term paranormal.

The ROGUE would discard such a case. He will only find cases which fit into his concept of what lies behind the UFO enigma. Or he will study them, but bias his report to omit mention of these bothersome subsidiary effects. He will then pick up pen and paper and write an article for some magazine or other about the case. In this he will state that he is "objective" and "preaches objectivity to other ufologists" and "investigates reports in an objective way". He will add that "since the word 'objective' crops up in nearly every UFO article I have read I understand the meaning of it - and, anyway, I do have an 'O' level"

This is really not on now, is it?

What ufology needs is a standard format of investigation and research techniques, to which ufologists (of whatever creed) must conform. If it hurts, or not.

THE PAST THIRTY YEARS OF UFOs OVER WEST YORKSHIRE (3)

The third part of Nigel Mortimer's research study.

BLUE-SOLID 'DOUGHNUT' UFOs (C)

(i) Two textile workers at Bingley saw a large bluish/black coloured "wheel" that had a belt of vapour inside and outside it. This odd looking ring moved across the sky in a strange 'swirling' motion, travelling clockwise. As it passed overhead it gradually faded into nothingness. DATED 4 DECEMBER 1950

(ii) Watch repairer, Mr E. Fox, and his two children of Bolton Rd, Bradford, saw at lunchtime, high in a clear blue sky, a large object that looked to be "as white as linen". It resembled and oversized 'doughnut' in appearance. The sky could be seen quite distinctly through the middle of it, and it was around the size of a semi-detached house. It was seen to revolve in an anti-clockwise direction, and was travelling quite fast in the direction of Leeds. It left what looked like a smoke trail. DATED 15 JANUARY 1951

(iii) Mrs M Kay and children of Horton Bank Top, Bradford, saw an object moving over fields near their home. It initially looked like a round ball but was then observed as a blue or purple coloured 'doughnut'. It was moving at great speed and seemed to be 'spinning' or revolving. They saw the object at 8.45 am until it moved away and disappeared behind clouds on the horizon. (see full account in NUN 103) DATED 25 APRIL 1983

(Nigel's report will be concluded in the next issue)

MEDIA MATTERS:-

A look at UFOs in the public eye

For some reason it has been a good time for Identified Flying Objects. Between January 6 and 11 1984 no fewer than four separate items appeared regarding IFOs.

First off Martin Dawson of the York Astro Society replied to a YUFOS letter in the Yorkshire Evening Press (Jan 6) explaining how an asteroid had seeded the Geminid meteor stream causing a spectacular show between December 12 and 14 1983.

Especially prominent was a brilliant fireball (magnitude -8) seen at 20.30 on December 12. So if you have any matching reports you can rule them out.

What may have been this meteor was seen by a woman in "Two Gates", Shropshire. Her brilliant light flashing by in seconds was reported in the Fawcett Herald on the same day as the above, connecting it with a huge patch of yellowed grass found nearby by another resident. He linked the "trace" with the "UFO". Sadly, the local parks superintendant scuppered the mystery. The grass had not been killed off by alien radiation but by humble down to earth weed-killer!

Last year there were many tales of "Fafrotskies", of the ice-bomb variety, falling in Britain. Portean Times has published summaries of some of these and Ken Phillips conducted an ASSAP investigation. The usual answer given is that the huge blocks of ice fall on unsuspecting victims from aircraft loots. But this has many drawbacks - including the 'slight' problem that the blocks fell in the days when there were no aircraft! The Sunday Express (Jan 8) had a cautionary tale to tell about Mr and Mrs Bitten of Coulsden, near Heathrow. When a huge ice bomb fell outside their back door she called the Civil Aviation Authority who agreed to investigate the samples. And then guess what? Next day - crash! - it happened again. Rushing out Mrs Bitten saw an aircraft overhead. Case solved? Well, no. For this ice had leaves in it - hardly your usual aircraft loot content. And then the terrible truth dawned. Her neighbours kids had been the culprits, launching frozen pieces from their garden pond in the direction of next door. Sheepishly she had to apologise to the C.A.A. & case of "Once Bitten, twice shy" I guess!

According to the Denbighshire Free Press (Jan 11) "a number of vehicles travelling into Denbigh from Ruthin on January 2, between 6.30 and 7.30pm, pulled in near Pen Y Maes Farm when drivers saw lights above them". They were "about four times bigger than a football and radiating green light". However, the local electricity board advised it was all due to a short-circuit on a transformer, with the sparks being blown about in the gale force winds.

To round things off the Halifax Courier (Feb 13) had a feature about "Motorways in the sky", that is aircraft navigation, based around "Pole Hill", a big beacon near Todmorden. Local air spotter, John Creevey, explained how high flying transatlantic jets on passover could be mistaken for UFOs. He argued this was why the West Yorkshire area was such a UFO mecca. But he did add, "I am quite confident (UFOs) do exist. My neighbour saw something with portholes hovering over Beacon Hill. That defies explanation. What was it?" Perhaps the West Yorkshire team should visit Mr Creevey's neighbour in Skircoat Green Road, Halifax, and find out!

(Incidentally, Wallasey happens to be a similar big crossover point for airways but it does not generate UFO reports in the way West Yorkshire does...JR)

RB (or Raymond Broderick), the Accrington witness reported in the last issue as seeing a "flying fried egg", has featured in the news again. The Accrington Observer (Jan 21) tells how he has given up his job "to become a full-time flying saucer spotter". As he says, "There is no doubt at all that they exist I have seen hundreds". He is not scared of ridicule because, as he adds, "I know they exist and I am going to prove it." But this would not please the York Astro Society, who after solving the case mentioned above, are quoted in the Yorks Evening Press (Feb 10) "I think some UFO societies do a lot of harm... Many of these so-called sightings of flying objects (99 per cent of them) can be so easily explained" Perhaps we should recruit Trevor Wood, their super-confident spokesman!

To close on a lighter note. The Woking News (Jan 26) had a delightful piece about the recent spate of sightings in Woodham Lane, Byfleet (home of Charles Bowen). Having realised that HG Wells's "War of the Worlds" was set here one police spokesman asked of a witness "Did you see it over Horsell Common?" The serious and perturbed witness was not as amused as the policeman evidently was!

SPOT THE ID0.... Test your powers of investigation

On Jan 9 1984 Mrs Alice Moon, from a Lancashire town, saw a UFO. She awoke early, around 07.15, and saw it shimmering and hovering just above the treeline. It was a brilliant light-source that hurt her eyes to look at it. She thought she could see windows in it through the cold and frosty bedroom glass. Eventually thin cloud passed before it and it even glowed through that. Mrs Moon has seen it regularly over the past two years "hovering like an enormous star". It is usually seen in Winter. A local investigator, David Blades, was said to be "mystified" - which he certainly ought not to be. All the clues are here. What was it???

Answer: The repeatability, description, long duration, extreme height (as seen through cloud) and other factors all make evident that this was a bright planet.

BRIEF CASES

'Some Current Investigations



ONE DAY AT NIGHT....

Peter Day, whose movie film taken in January 1973 on a road near Thame is in my view the most important evidence of its kind on record, has recently been in touch. He was commenting on my book "UFO REALITY", just published, which features a detailed study of the case...including a colour image from the film on the cover.

Peter points out that had he not filmed the orange ball-of-light the many children who saw it at Long Crendon nearby would probably have been accused of mass hallucination. And yet, even though he did film it, he still seems to have suffered an "Os Factor" Effect. He cannot understand why none of the other traffic on the road (do not forget it was the morning 'rush hour') observed not a thing. Somehow the "sphere of influence" for UFO events here extended to twenty seconds of colour movie film.

But, even more fascinating, is this 'prequel' experience, Peter has never referred to before...because he did not realise it was important. Only now that such similar phenomena have been brought to light from key UFO witnesses has he chosen to report what took place. However, even now, Peter is not aware of the extent of such "bedroom lightballs" (see The Pennine UFO Mystery, for their role in the Alan Godfrey and Mike Sacks encounters, for example).

The year was 1943, summer time, and he had been married for just six months when his wife was taken critically ill. He was informed that she would probably not survive and could not even be moved to hospital, assuming that in war-time there would have been a bed. So Peter flew home from his base in Lincolnshire, where he served, and spent a traumatic night sitting by his wife's bedside.

She was going through agonies, with hallucinations (of monkeys on her dressing table) but drifted into a fitful sleep. As the night drew on Peter slipped into bed beside her, intent on being there to the end. And then, at midnight, with just a dim room light on, he turned cold and sweaty as he observed a strange phenomenon enter the room.

It was a sphere of dark grey smoke-like material, swirling inside an outer sphere. Its size was about that of a football. It entered the closed bedroom door, just below the ceiling, floated over to the edge of the bed where it slowed to an almost standstill, and then gradually drifted away (still quite intact) leaving the room by the closed window. He turned to his wife and she was calmly asleep. The next morning she was totally recovered.

Whatever these strange mini-UFO bedroom invaders turn out to be, the growing

number that are turning up as prequels to later close encounters (often in childhood) suggest they are important. They seem to be a neglected area of the UFO phenomenon...which may happen often, but we never ask about them and a witness does not think they have any relevance to the subsequent UFO events.

"They will think it is flying saucers"

The weirdest "Abduction" case yet.

If you have been keeping up to date with the latest bizarre tales of UFO abduction, you may feel that we have reached the heights (or depths?) of absurdity. Surely, nobody can come along in a very serious manner, and offer a story of a new order of magnitude in such matters? If you think so - then read on.

Mrs W (strict confidentiality is required) wrote to me from a Pennine milltown after reading The Pennine UFO Mystery. The events which she has now painfully unravelled are to say the least fantastic. But she insists they are true.

Mrs W is english born and bred but presently married to a muslim. In this regard she has to abide by strict religious codes, one of which is to obey him absolutely. This has rather complicated the investigation as she does not wish him to know what took place.

The story begins in December 1965, when she lived in Birmingham with her first husband. She was barely out of her teens and qualifying, with a degree, as a teacher. Her husband told her one night that they were going on a journey. She had to prepare for a shock and it was some kind of test. From his voice she knew it was not a joke.

They got into their car and drove off, but details of the trip are hazy. They then arrived at a house, which was dimly lit. Some people were standing around a long table, or bed, and she was lain upon it. A weird medical examination then began, using strange equipment she only vaguely recalls. A strong sense of shock overlaid the experience and her mind was "interfered with". There was a tall, thin man in the party with a long nose and white beard. He had heavy eyebrows and actually told her, "Remember the eyebrows, honey". Later one of the group said to her, almost as an aside and in a wry tone, "They will think it's flying saucers".

Her next memory is of being told (by her husband) that they were going north, but she does not recall how this happened. Images flashed into her mind that included the present house she now lives in and other, unfamiliar, houses in Hebden Bridge and Bradford. It was all very dark as this occurred.

As they stood in the last house her husband clicked his fingers and she found herself back in the room in Birmingham on the bed, from where the journey had begun. She had no recollection of the ensuing 'time lapse'. He then explained to her who he really was (he was human, but she will not elaborate). To prove that he possessed full knowledge of the future he told her political matters then secret which would later be demonstrated. And then he told her how her life would unfold, explaining in detail many events that would occur. However, he told her that this information would be in her mind and would only be retrieved at the relevant future point. He gave her mnemonics to help recover this information when she began to sense the time was right. He then told her to forget everything, which she immediately did.

The next day her first husband left her and said he was going abroad. She has never seen or heard from him since!

Eventually, in about 1978, memories began to come back, triggered by incidents in her life. She was by now remarried and she realised that back in 1965 she had been

shown her future husband and all about her life together. As mnemonics came to her she was able to recall things before they 'happened' and tell others to prove these 'predictions'. They all were fulfilled and she thinks there are no more major ones to come out, except perhaps the houses she saw. But she cannot be sure as memories of this 'abduction' are still unclear.

Quite what to make of all this is hard to say. The parallels with UFO abductions are obvious. There is little doubt Mrs W believes it. Indeed she is certain that she was taken into the future, with the aid of future technology, and given her 'life plan', that was then put into her subconscious to guide her.

One thing is sure - the theorists out there will love this one!

ANOTHER OZ FACTOR EXPERIENCE

Case 75/161 October 9 1975 18.00 Ellesmere Port, Cheshire MUFORA

This is reported by one of the witnesses, who at the time was a young teenager. He says he has reassessed a report he wrote for a local UFO group at the time now he has grown up and is able to be more objective.

MH was playing with a friend by a junk yard and orchard when he saw a whitish vapour over the trees. Then he lost it. Climbing a tree, partly to get a better view and partly because his friend (who had not seen the vapour) wanted to watch the 'truckers' on the nearby motorway, they looked about but saw nothing. Around 30 minutes later MH felt a tingling sensation in the back of his head, as if he was aware he was being watched. He turned around and saw a brilliant white light, low to the ground and nearby. Calling to his friend he was ignored, and as he looked back it was now slowly rising and moving off towards the Stanlow oil refinery. At this point MH noticed that all sounds had disappeared. The birds he had been very aware of moments before had ceased twittering. The guard dogs had stopped their noise from the scrapyard. And the constant hum from the motorway had vanished.

Recovering from the shock MH looked back at the object, now higher in the sky by a burner at the oil plant. It circled this three times and on the last occasion seemed to fly through the flame. He called again to his friend, who stared at him for a moment and then looked straight back at the motorway with out responding. The object had now climbed into a small cloud bank over the Mersey estuary. He continued watching but it never came out. Feeling frightened he told his friend he wanted to go and they returned home, arriving back at about 21.00. Whilst MH is not sure this may indicate the existence of a time lapse. The times are inconsistent.

JET CHASE OVER THE M61

Case 78-275 October 1978 07.30 Blackrod, Lancashire MUFORA (Peter Hough)

NT, a motor mechanic employed by a garage on the motorway, had returned from a breakdown and was filling the truck with fuel. Glancing upwards he chanced to see a curious object in the southern sky, elevation 30 degrees. It was a silvery sphere, just smaller than the full moon in diameter, hovering motionless. It appeared to be reflecting the sun which had risen a few minutes before. He pointed this out to a colleague and both stopped work for several minutes to stare at it.

Suddenly there was a terrific roar and they turned to see aircraft approaching from their rear (ie the north), traversing the gap between the motorway and the valley at a height estimated as no more than 200 feet. They seemed to be military planes and there were six of them. Three peeled off formation and climbed towards the object. The other three continued south towards Bolton. But before they could get any closer the object suddenly shot upwards from a standing start. The planes continued pursuit, but the two men lost sight as object and aircraft faded into

tiny dots in the lightening sky.

As Peter Hough says in his report this is a frustrating case, potentially very important. Early October that year (which this report seems to refer to) involved a south Lancashire flap of sightings. Yet here there were no other witnesses (although the motorway is a commuter one and not very busy at such a time of day) NT asked around after the sighting and found several others who recalled the noisy entrance of the jets but not the UFO. NT's colleague cannot be traced either, although the witness has been helpful and cooperative in this search.

Did NT falsely link a light in the sky with jets that just happened to be there? This is an area where RAF jet training is approved, but not common. NT recalls no other time at the garage when he saw low flying military planes such as this. And the implied response of the UFO to the jets is interesting.

Peter wrote to the MOD, requesting access to files appertaining to the case, or any other relevant events. Pam Titchmarsh responded saying she had "studied the reports of UFO sightings received by the Ministry of Defence during September and October 1978 but have been unable to trace anything similar to the incident you describe". But none of these records were supplied.

Clearly, six years on we are unlikely to solve this particular riddle. But if it was not a big coincidence and NT is being truthful (as Peter feels probable) then somebody authorised the six jets to fly.

THE UFO WITH THE COMPLEX PLUMBING

Case 8088 December 7 1980 20.40 Burton, Derbyshire MUFORA

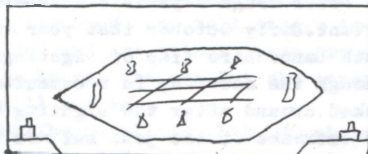
Mrs DL is a married lady with two children aged 25 at time of experience. She lives in Lincolnshire but was returning home from relatives in the north west. She strikes investigators as a very sensible person who has her feet very much on the ground when thinking of the meaning behind her encounter. She had no idea that so many UFOs had been seen in the Pennines, and had no clue who to report this sighting to at the time. But when she saw the Pennine UFO Mystery in a shop the words 'Pennine' and 'UFO' jogged her into buying it and calling MUFORA.

The first phase of the experience occurred just outside Macclesfield, in Cheshire, when they rounded an S-bend on the hills. Suddenly two white lights, one after the other, streaked across the sky and vanished into the valley, being carried out of view below the stone wall. After the first light there was time to think 'was that a helicopter crashing?' before the second one followed it. They thought it odd, but the road was narrow and unlit so did not stop.

About seven minutes later they had climbed higher into the hills, affording the marvellous views one gets across miles of Cheshire plains towards Manchester. The sky was dark and filled with stars. Directly ahead Mrs DL saw a brilliant star, similar to Sirius as she puts it, but it looked unusually prominent. She mentioned it to her husband, but he was intent on the winding road and only she concentrated upon the object, which changed into a big oval and moved north across the sky. It then dimmed again and was surrounded by a reddish arc of light. It then shot down towards the ground and turned deep red, before streaking upwards again. The road and hill-line then took them away and caused it to vanish.

As this is happening Mrs DL is describing the complex manoeuvres of the object to her husband, who seems not too concerned. They had now reached Burton, and as they are about to enter the outskirts of the isolated town Mrs DL chanced to twist round in her seat and look behind. Directly in a gap between two houses and just above their rooftops sat a massive object, tilted so that only the underside was visible.

In shape it was like two vulcan bombers stuck together, with a wide central bit and protrusions at either side. There was a dim lighting underneath. But the most instantly memorable thing was the complex piping and "sticking out bits" underneath. Mrs DL says she would have expected a UFO to be enchanting but instead this was ugly. It is imprinted onto her mind like a photograph. For a few moments she tried to tell her husband but the shock prevented her talking. Eventually she blurted it out and said, "But I saw it five minutes ago". However, her husband is insistent she did not tell him until they reached Bakewell, thirty minutes later. The circumstances of the case certainly seem to suggest a time lapse.



Mrs DL says "I am sure my husband would have noticed had I been beamed up out of the car and was missing between Burton and Bakewell". But she has no answer for the confusion, except that she must have been in deep shock for half an hour. MUFORA have endeavoured to persuade her to undergo regression hypnosis, but she has not proven willing to do so. If this changes an update report will be supplied.

Case 8316 October 15 1983 Wingfield, S. Yorks Inv: Mick Hanson (MUFORA)

Mrs JH, her husband, her 5 yr old daughter, and her mother-in-law, were walking to a local dance at about 18.30 when they saw a bright silver ball moving on a NE to SW course. It dipped slightly, climbed back to its original height, and drifted out of sight. Diligent investigation shows that this was almost certainly a weather balloon launched at 17.30.

NEW EVENTS IN "UFO ALLEY"

Investigations by Norman Collinson and Mike Sacks of MUFORA

The Rossendale Valley, as readers of The Pennine UFO Mystery or this magazine will know, has generated great volumes of UFO events in recent years. But as we have previously shown many can be ascribed to a DC-9 freighter from a company called "Air Cargo" in the book to protect its identity. Readers of this magazine will recall that Swissair are the real culprits. This flight, especially late on Friday nights as it passes over heading south towards landing at Manchester Airport, have been shown to 'glide' (with lights off) creating a very strange sight to the puzzled witnesses who get close to it. If you stand on a Rossendale hill at around 1000 feet asl, and the plane glides over just a few hundred feet above, it looks pretty terrifying. Norman Collinson knows because he saw it at very close quarters on one occasion.

The sightings continue and the Rossendale Free Press has taken to dubbing the area "UFO Alley". On Friday, December 2 1983, a new encounter precipitated a mini-flap.

Two 12 year old girls from Bacup had just finished grooming their horses on a hillside when some bright lights appeared above, flashing white, blue and red. They panicked and threw themselves onto the floor as the thing silently glided over. The horses reacted too. Eventually the girls fled home as the lights passed out of sight across the hills.

The graphic account of this sighting makes it appear very strange. But on-site investigation by Norman Collinson led to suspicion that the girls had grossly exaggerated what they saw. And, as if we might have guessed, the same DC-9 jet, "Air Cargo 101" landed at Manchester 12 minutes after the event and was thus over the area at the time. The probability that it was yet again the solution to the sighting is regarded as high by the investigators.

Two days later (on December 4 at 20.00) a white object with a red light was seen traversing the valley by another Bacup resident. And a rerun of the same incident occurred two days later again (at December 6, 18.30). Both of these events seem likely to refer to light aircraft or helicopters.

However, to the residents of "UFO alley" it is likely the various lights in the night time sky will always take on a rather stranger hue.

Case 8402 January 10 1984 19.25 Whiston, Merseyside MUFORA (Peter Hough)

This again looked like a promising case, the local newspaper describing how many people had seen a UFO hovering over a playing field, and how two sisters in nearby Huyton had independently seen the same object. However, in pursuit it did not quite turn out that way. 36 yr old barmaid, Mrs H, was interviewed. But her description does not tally with that given in the newspaper. Driving to work she saw two white lights and a row of five flashing red lights underneath. This seemed to hover and she stopped the car, got out and watched for a minute or two. But she then decided to press on and left it, still hovering. None of the other people could be identified, despite attempts in the area. And the independent witnesses, who saw something similar from Huyton, could not be found in what turned out to be a very depressing and derelict housing estate.

Possibly this was a helicopter, although none was traced. But the investigation had to be aborted for lack of detail. Thus ended the first case of the new year.

FINAL WORDS

"The MOD and UFOs"

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WORDS {

In NUN 101 we reported that the British Defence Ministry had begun to change its policy, however slightly, on the UFO phenomenon. They were reviewing the best way by which they might publish the voluminous case data they had.

Things have altered in the past year. There was, of course, the furore over the Rendlesham Forest incident and the consequent release of an MBD file (by error it seems), via the Freedom of Information Act in the USA. Several less sensitive case files have been released to British investigators (Ian Mrsyglod and myself have several, and YUFOS in Yorkshire recently reported on a file they were surprised to receive). This reflects the welcome switch in emphasis by the MOD. And on top of this there has been the moves (in force) to persuade the government to introduce a Freedom of Information Act in Britain. It was this move in Australia, more than any other, which prompted the government there to pre-empt the inevitable pressure from ufologists such an act (introduced in 1983) would bring. And so in 1982 they released their files of their own volition to the UFO community. Similar thinking may lie behind the new liberal approach in the UK, especially after the lawsuits that continue to bubble in the USA after their move to F.O.I.

In the House of Commons debate, forced after the Rendlesham Forest revelations last October, the MOD admitted to possessing the following report totals for recent years... 1978 (750), 1979 (550), 1980 (350), 1981 (600), 1982 (250) and 1983 (390) - compare this fascinating information with the NUFON figures on pp 7 this issue. Clearly the MOD does not display the fall-off in UFO reports noticed so markedly by UFO groups worldwide. Quite why this should be so is an intriguing question.

We have a marvellous opportunity for progress here. And I would urge all serious investigators to take advantage of the support of this newspaper. If you have any information that you think could be profitably used by the influential (not sensational) British media - think it through, prepare what you have, and then let them have it. If we keep up the momentum, who knows what will happen?

(Details from Paul Devreux MOOT 84 PO Box 13 Welshpool Powys)

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